

ARGENTINA



N. B. P. R.

PRIME MINISTER

A. S. C. 7/12

THE FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN: THE LESSONS

I have seen the Note circulated by the Secretary of State for Defence covering the draft White Paper on the lessons learned from the Falklands campaign.

The Paper brings out very well the remarkable achievement in mounting the force in so short a time, a fact which both our allies and potential adversaries cannot have failed to notice. The proposed action in procuring equipment to make good our losses, remedy shortcomings identified in the conflict and strengthen our capacity for limited action beyond the NATO area should improve our total all round capability and give our forces greater flexibility. The Paper constitutes a remarkable testimony to the quality of the equipment in use by our forces and should provide welcome support to Defence Sales.

My Department's mainrole was in the requisitioning of merchant shipping to supplement the standing RN and RFA forces. It is gratifying that this aspect of the operation worked so well.

I support the publication of the White Paper.

I am copying this to colleagues in OD.

Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0ET

7 December 1982

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'L. Cockfield'.

RP LORD COCKFIELD

Approved by the Secretary
of State and signed in
his absence

Argentina 14 31
Melahor



27 DEC 1932

